Application No. Unassigned:

Attorney Docket No. BASF.10017

Preliminary Amendment Dated: December 30, 2004

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of compound (III) which comprises the reaction between a compound of general formula (V) and dicyano acetylene (IV), said reaction carried out in the presence of water

wherein R is selected from CF₃, or C₁ to C₆ alkyl <u>and</u>

M is an alkaline or alkaline-earth metal or silver.

Claim 2. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein R is CF₃ and M is silver.

Claim 3. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 carried out in the presence of an organic solvent which is miscible with water.

Claim 4. (original) A process as claimed in claim 3 in which the solvent is acetone or tetrahydrofuran.

Claim 5. (currently amended) A process as claimed in <u>claim 1</u> any one of the <u>preceding claims</u> carried out at a temperature of from -100 to +50°C.

Claim 6. (currently amended) A process as claimed in <u>claim 1</u> any one of the <u>preceding claims</u> carried <u>out</u> wherein the molar ratio of dicyano acetylene to <u>the</u> compound of formula (V) is from 5:1 to 1:5.

Claim 7. (currently amended) Novel compound according to general formula (III) as defined in claim 1 wherein R is CF_{3.}

Claim 8. (original) A process for the preparation of compound (VII) which comprises a first step of reaction of an aryl hydrazine of compound (I) with a compound of general formula (III) to produce an intermediate compound of general formula (VI), and a second step which comprises the oxidation of the compound (VI), according to the reaction scheme below

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{CI} \\ \text{CI} \\ \text{CI} \\ \text{CF}_3 \text{ (I)} \end{array}$$

where R is a selected from CF_3 or C_1 to C_6 alkyl.

Claim 9. (original) A process as claimed in claim 8 wherein the compound of formula (VI) is 1-trifluoromethyl thio 2 - (2,6 - dichloro - 4 - trifluoromethyl phenylhydrazino) succinonitrile.

Claim 10. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 8 or claim 9 carried out in the presence of a polar solvent selected from tetrahydrofuran tetrahydrofurane, N-methylpyrrolidone, N,N-dimethylformamide and dimethylsulphoxide.

Claim 11. (currently amended) A process as claimed in <u>claim 8</u> any one of claim in 8 to 10 carried out in the presence of a catalyst selected from N-benzyltrimethylammonium hydroxide, or alanine.

Claim 12. (currently amended) A process as claimed in <u>claim 8 any one of claim in 8 to 11 carried out at a temperature of from 0 to about 150°C.</u>

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Claim 13. (currently amended) A process as claimed in <u>claim 8 any one of claim in 8 to 12</u> wherein the molar ratio of <u>the</u> compound of formula (III) to <u>the</u> compound of formula (I) is from 1:10 to 10:1.

Claim 14. (currently amended) A process as claimed in <u>claim 8</u> any one of claims 8 to 13 wherein the second step is carried out in the presence of a quinone, a peroxide, a hypohalite or an alkali metal hydroxide.

Claim 15. (currently amended) A process as claimed in <u>claim 8</u> any one of claims 8 to 14 wherein the second step is carried out in the presence of air and optionally a metal salt or oxide.

Claim 16. (currently amended) A process as claimed in <u>claim 8</u> any one of claims 8 to 15 wherein the second step is carried out in the presence of an aromatic halogenated or non-halogenated hydrocarbon solvent.

Claim 17. (currently amended) A process as claimed in <u>claim 8</u> any one of the elaims 8 to 16 wherein the second step is carried out at a temperature of from 20 to 150°C.

Claim 18. (currently amended) Novel compound according to general formula (VI) as defined in claim 8 elaim 1 wherein R is CF_{3.}

Claim 19. (new) A process as claimed in claim 2 carried out in the presence of an organic solvent which is miscible with water.

Claim 20. (new) A process as claimed in claim 9 carried out in the presence of a polar solvent selected from tetrahydrofuran, N-methylpyrrolidone, N,N-dimethylformamide and dimethylsulphoxide.